



# **A Judge's Perspective:** Seeking Balance & Credibility

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# A Judge's Perspective



- Balance and credibility
- Paradigms & cluelessness.
  - Kritiks and such.
- U.S. government policy-making & operations.
- How the world works.
- Money, banking & finance.
- Hyperbole vs. reality.



# Paradigms & Cluelessness

- Paradigms:
  - Stock issues & policy-maker;
  - Hypothesis testing & ‘games player’;
  - Communications skills; or
  - Tabula rasa & Kritical.
- Speed vs. Persuasiveness?
- The Perils of Poor Listening.





# Kritiks and Such



Which Marx is which?

- Is the judge likely to be receptive?
- Are you familiar with the literature?
- Can you to articulate the argument clearly, logically, & persuasively?
- Does it directly address the AFF's case? Fit within this resolution?



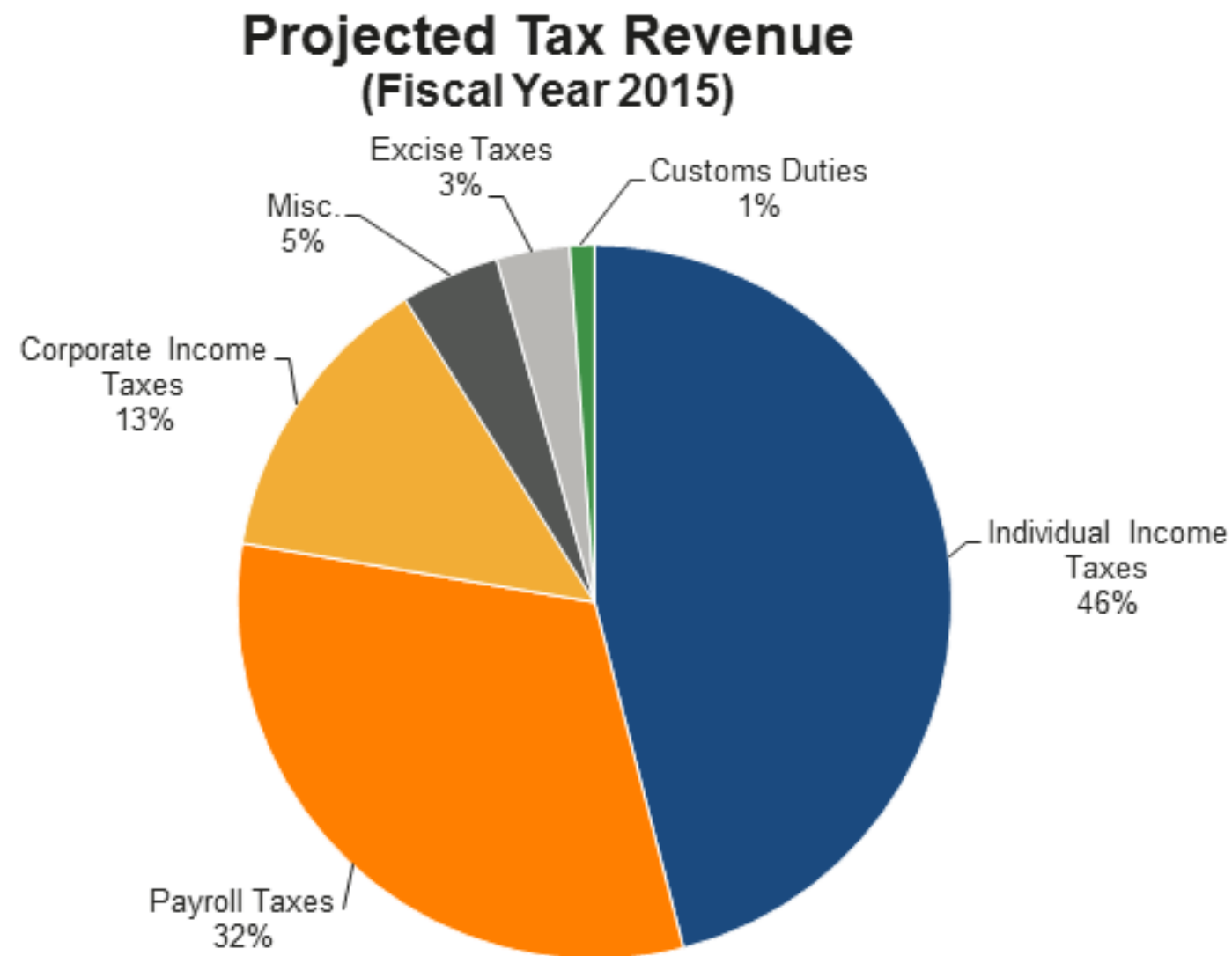
# U.S. Government Policymaking and Operations


- Federalism and the three branches of government.
  - Aside: Parliamentary gov't?
- Who makes USG policy?
- Who implements USG policy?
  - ‘Follow the money’?
  - Bureaucratic politics?
- Whence comes the money? And where does it go?
- Fiat, solvency, and the ‘Politics’ DISAD (are you up-to-date?).





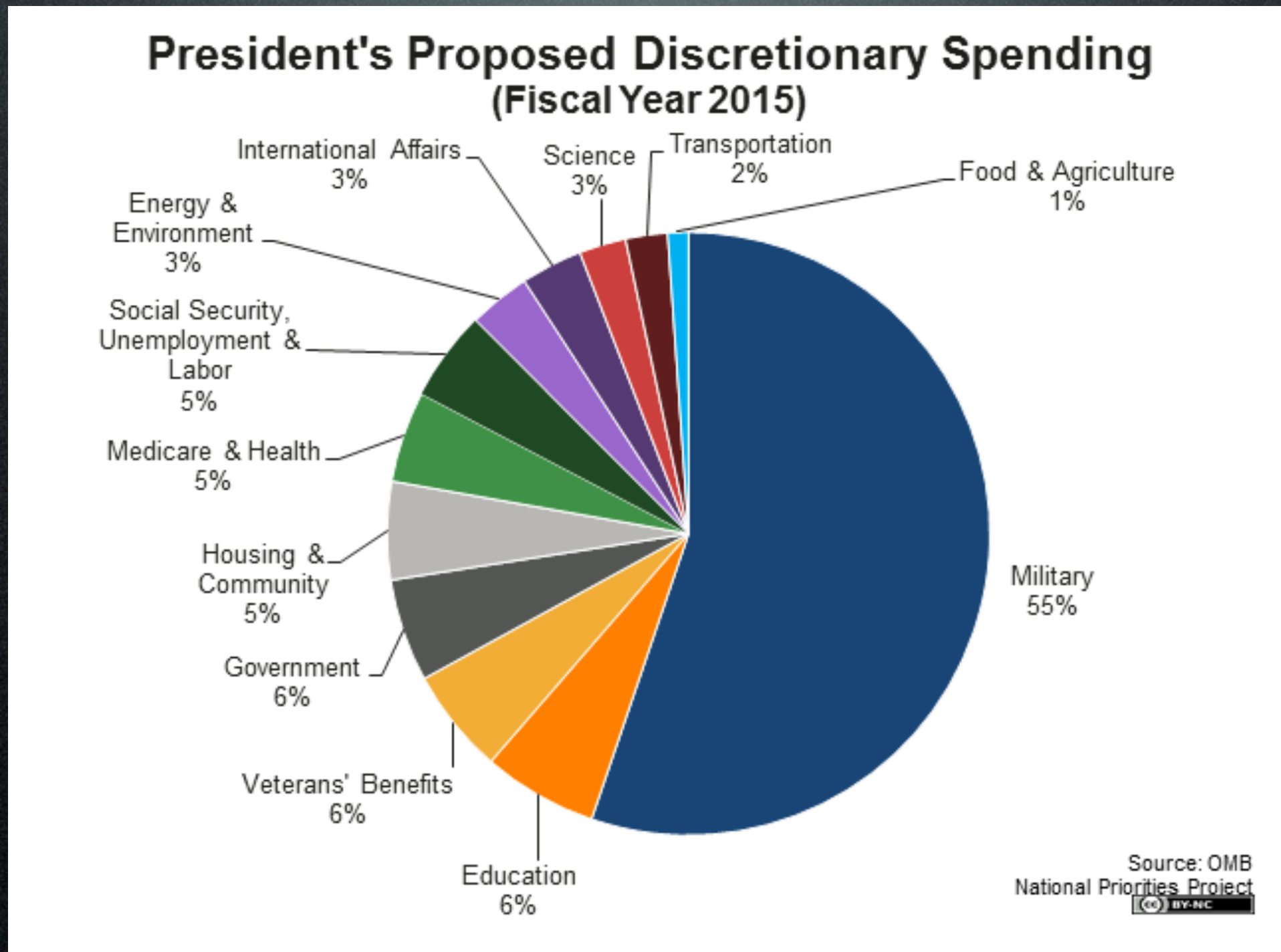
# U.S. Government Revenue (\$3.34 trillion, FY 2015)



Source: OMB  
National Priorities Project  




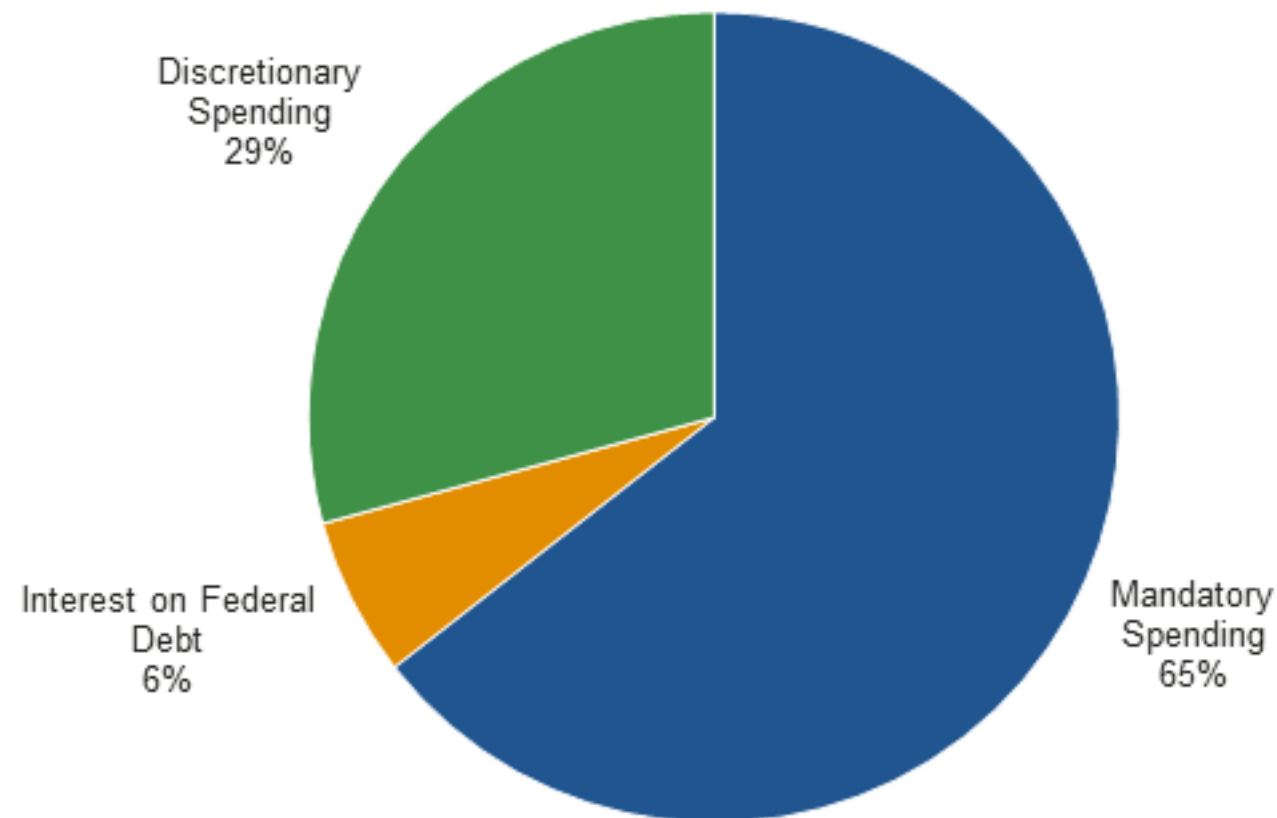
# U.S. Discretionary Spending (\$1.16 trillion, FY 2015)






# FY 2015 Total Spending (includes \$252 billion interest)

**Projected Mandatory and Discretionary  
Spending and Interest on Federal Debt  
(Fiscal Year 2015)**

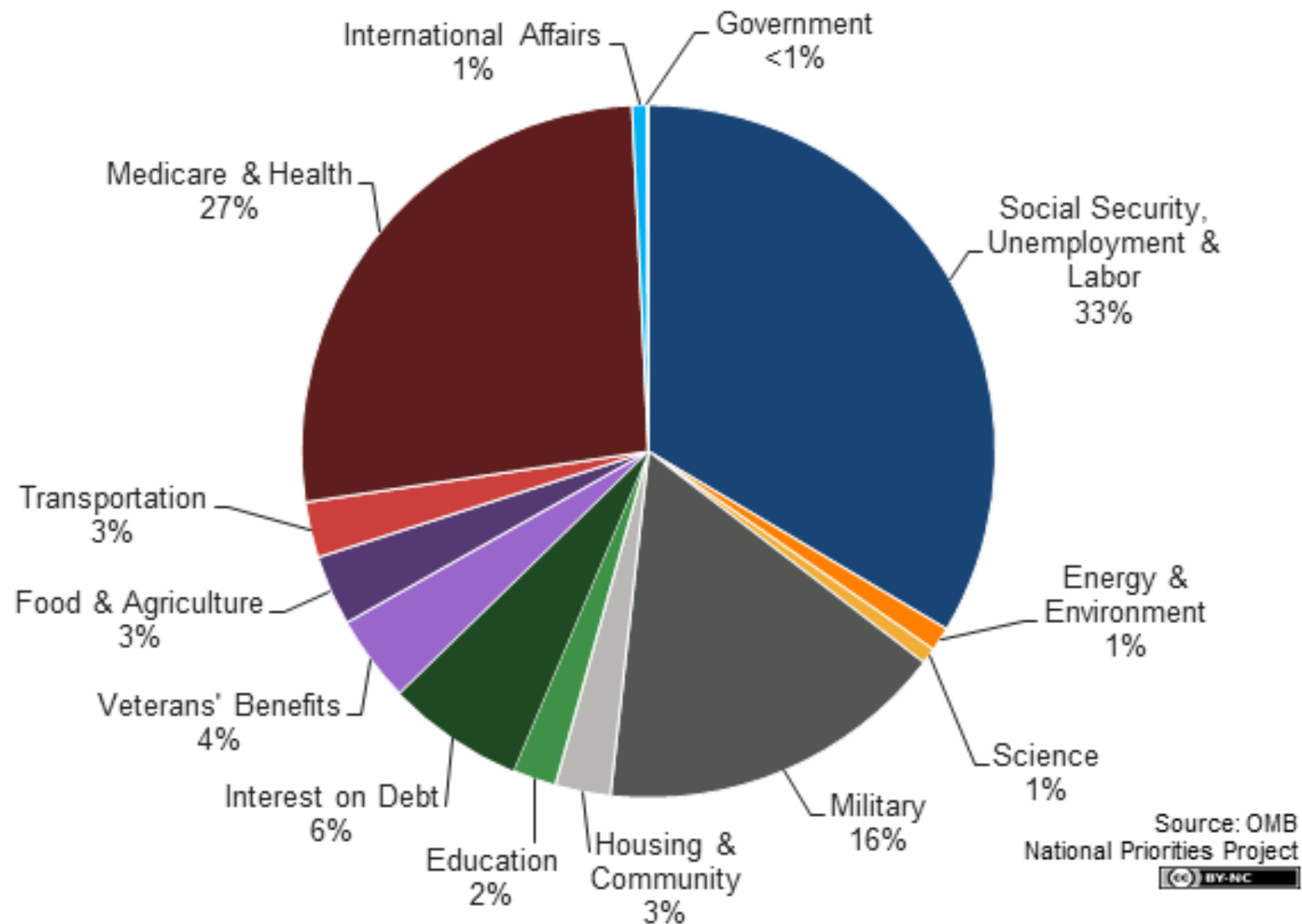


Source: OMB  
National Priorities Project  




# U.S. Government Spending (\$3.97 trillion, FY 2015)

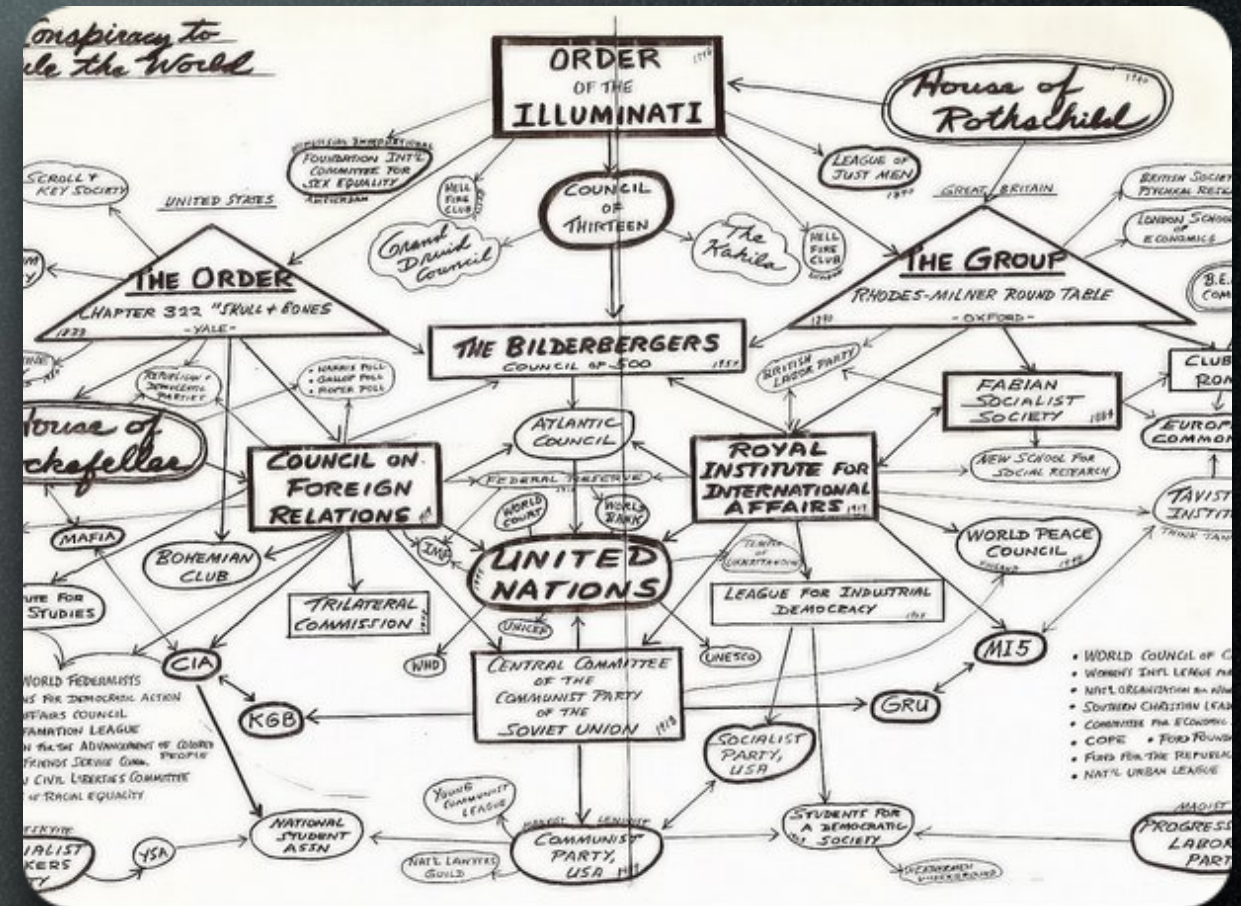
**President's Proposed Total Spending  
(Fiscal Year 2015)**





# How the World Works

- **Realism**
  - Anarchy
  - 'Hegemony'
- **Institutionalism**
  - Int'l Organizations
  - Int'l Law, Courts, & Justice
- **Liberalism**
  - 'Democratic Peace'
- **Treaties & Agreements?**
- **Economic Sanctions?**





# Money & Banking, Economics & Finance

- Domestic Economic Policy:
  - Fiscal vs. monetary policy (and the role of the Federal Reserve).
  - Debt vs. Deficits.
- Global Finance and IFIs:
  - IMF vs. World Bank
  - Regional development banks vs. foreign aid?





# Hyperbole vs. Reality?



- Nuclear War?
- Climate Change:
  - Bad: Global extinction.
  - Worse: Denial.
  - Better: Direct causality, specific dangers, and realistic harms.
- Find the right mix of science, economic/commercial, & politics.